

The Unnatural Mother

Being a Full and True

A C C O U N T

Of One ELIZABETH KENNET, a Marry'd Woman, living in Robin Hood's Court in Shoe-lane, who, on Tuesday the 6th of April, 1697, privately Deliver'd her self, and afterwards flung her Infant in the Fire, and Burnt it all to Ashes, but a few of the Bones. Likewise of her being had before a Justice, and her Confession there.

9. 4. pill. 1697.

Daily Instances of Barbarities, one would think, should be enough to terrifie a Christian People from the like; but the Devil is so busie, that scarce a day passes, but some inhumane Murder is Committed; and this which I am going to give you a Relation of, I think is one of the Cruellest and most Unnaturallest of the Age, it being Committed by a Mother, and a Married Woman, on her own Infant; which you may take as follows.

This cruel Mother before mentioned, is one Elizabeth Kennet, her Husband being a Pavier, and a House-keeper, and one that is well to pass, and has likewise the Repute of a very honest Man, and always very kind unto Elizabeth Kennet his Wife; she being very big, her Husband would ask her why she did not provide Things for the Child against she was brought to Bed? but she still would make him a Reply, That he need not trouble himself, for she was provided well enough; and on Tuesday in Easter-Week, she was that Morning at a Neighbours House merry, and Eating some Gammon of Bacon; and her Husband the same Day happen'd to take a Walk to Hampstead, and Returning in the Evening, found a Hubbard about his House; but soon perceiving the occasion, was ready to run distracted; and is now in such a troubled condition, that ev'ry body that knew him does heartily pity him: the occasion of which is by his Wife, who in his absence, happen'd to fall in Labour, but call'd for no Woman about her; but after delivering of her self, 'tis thought she wrapp'd the Child in a Cloth and flung it in the Fire, where it was consum'd all but a few of the Bones: There has been a Minister, who prayed with her, then tax'd her with making away of her Infant; she denies her own doing of it, but charges a Neighbouring Woman that she took it from her and carried it to the Thames and Drowned it; the poor Woman wrings her Hands and tears her Hair, and is ready to run distracted, and does protest she was not in the Room when she was deliver'd, nor never saw any Child she had; the Mother will not confess as yet that she flung her Child in the Fire, though there is several of the Bones found, which she pretends to be Bones of Lamb which she had the day before; and on Wednesday about Ten of the Clock, she was put in a Coach and had before a Justice, where she persisted in the old story, and said those Bones which were produc'd, were Bones of a Lamb's Head; but upon the Justices farther inquiry into the matter, and asking her what made her put the Lamb's Bones in a Cloth? She seem'd to be at a Stand; and after some time, 'tis said, she own'd she Burnt her Child, but withall alledging it was a Monster, by having of two Heads, and she asham'd the World should see it, which made her do what she did: 'Tis the Justice took Bail for some small time; after which she will be sent to the Gate, to remain till the next Sessions, and then to be Tryed for the same.

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